IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

UNITED STATES OF AN	(IERICA)	
Plair	ntiff,	
)	
v.)	Case No.: 1:18CV804
)	
BRIAN BERNHART,)	
Defe	endant.	COMPLAINT

The United States of America, by Matthew G.T. Martin, United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina, brings this action, complaining and alleging as follows:

- 1. This is a civil action brought by said Plaintiff and the court has jurisdiction over this action by virtue of 28 U.S.C. §1345.
- 2. That the Defendant, Brian Bernhart, resides in Concord, North Carolina, within the jurisdiction of this court.
- 3. On or about May 19, 1996, the Defendant executed a Promissory Note for a Federal Health Education Assistance Loan, a copy of which is hereto annexed as Exhibit "A". The Defendant has defaulted in the payments due under said Promissory Note and owes the Plaintiff the amount of \$31,692.98 which includes principal in the amount of \$31,284.91 interest computed as of July 15, 2018, in the amount of \$408.07, and additional interest at the rate of 3.445 percent per annum from July 16, 2018, until judgment; together with post-judgment interest as allowed by law and costs, as is more fully shown on the Certificate of Indebtedness attached hereto as Exhibit "B".

4. That the Plaintiff has made demand upon the Defendant for payment of the aforesaid indebtedness, but the Defendant has failed, neglected and refused to satisfy said

indebtedness.

5. To declarant's best information and belief the Defendant is not an infant or

incompetent person and is not in the military service within purview of the Servicemembers

Civil Relief Act (SCRA) (50 USC App. § 3901 et seq, as amended), formerly known as

the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940.

6. Plaintiff has contacted the Defense Manpower Data Center and was informed

that it does not possess any information indicating the Defendant's status as active.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against the Defendant for the amount

of \$31,692.98, which includes principal in the amount of \$31,284.91, interest computed as

of July 15, 2018, in the amount of \$408.07, and additional interest at the rate of 3.445

percent per annum from July 16, 2018, until judgment; together with post-judgment interest

as allowed by law, costs and for such other and further relief as the court may deem just,

fair and reasonable.

MATTHEW G.T. MARTIN

United States Attorney

/s/ Joan B. Childs

Assistant United States

Attorney NCSB# 18100

United States Attorney's Office

Middle District of North Carolina

101 S. Edgeworth St., 4th Floor

Greensboro, NC 27401

Telephone: (336) 333-5351

Email: joan.childs@usdoj.gov

FORM APPROVED: OMB No. 0915-0043 Expiration Date: 09/30/97 See OMB Statement on Reverse side.

Identifiers Have Been Roberted HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM Promissory Note—Variable

WARNING: Any person who knowingly makes a false statement or misrepresentation in a HEAL loan transaction, bribes or attempts to bribe a Federal official, fraudulently obtains a HEAL loan, or commits any other illegal action in connection with a HEAL loan is subject to possible fine and imprisonment under Federal statute.

Public reporting burden for this collection of Information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing burden to: Reports Clearance Officer, Attention, PRA United States Public Health Service, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 721-B, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0915-0043), Washington, D.C. 20503

and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0915-0043	, Washington, D.C. 20	0503		7.5	型でが初り	Ca. Carlo	
				Toronto.	9000	N O	
Last Name (Print or type)	First Name		Middle Initial		£	nt Number (SSN)	
Bernhart	Brian		C	1.1	5	2453	
Other Name(s) Used				-	T	7,00	
Continued to the property of the control of the con					音生 方	Section (
PERMANENT (HOME) ADDRESS City	State	•	Zip Code	4.4Ms	Area Code/Telephon	ne Number	
7901 Henry Ave Gull Philad	elphia V	PM	141128		215. 418		
LOCAL (SCHOOL) ADDRESS City	State		Zip Code		Area Code/Telephon		
3223 N. Broad St Phil	aclelphia	PH	1914019129	3		7663	
					No MAI	16.5	
	PROMI	ISE TO	PAY			ŧ	
Brian Bernhart		.0		Tho	Chasa Manh	attan Bank, N.A.	
Name of borrower		the borro	ver, promise to pay to				
New York, N.Y.				Name	e, City, and State of Len	der	
TOW TOTAL T.						, the lender	
or the subsequent holder of this Note, the principal sum of	s 18500		to the extent	it is an	dvanced to me, to no	y interest on the principal	
sum as set out below, and to pay authorized late charges,		ey's fees, a	nd other costs and charge	es that	are permitted by Fe	deral regulations and are	
necessary for the collection of any amount not paid when	due.				,	ATTEMPT OF THE STATE OF THE STA	
The Lender and I further understand and agree that:			۸۷۰۰		01 dov.T bill 1	1.050/	
NOTIFICATION		(d) Repayment period: Aver	age	9 I day I-biii+	1.85%, rounded up	
I must immediately notify the lender (in this Note, the term "lender	" includes a subsequent		Vac. No. 00 No.5 No.5 No.5 No.5	525			
holder of the Note) in writing if any of the following occurs to me bel full: 1) change of addross, 2) i.ame change (e.g., maiden name to r			Any change in the yearly ra ayments, or the amount due a			ment amounts, the number of	
to enroll in a HEAL school for the period for which the loan is intended			aymone, or the amount due t	at maio			
cohool, 5) withdrawal from school or attendance on a less than full-ti		1	NSURANCE PREMIUM				
7) failure to begin any activity eligible for deferment status, or 8) ces on activity eligible for deferment status.	sation of participation in		agree to pay, in addition to int				
and the second s			remium that is required by the ayment of an insurance premi				
INTEREST		S	ecretary shall be due and paya				
. Beginning on the day the loan is disbursed, interest shall accrue accruing before the beginning of the repayment period may be postp		p	roceeds.				
hich .epayment of برrincipa، is required to begin or to resume. Inte		F	PREPAYMENT I may, at my option and without penalty, prepay all or any part of the principal and accrued				
and is not paid may be added to the principal sum of this Note not mo							
12 months. Beginning when the repayment period commences, inte paid as set forth in the Repayment Schedule which the lender shall			nterest at any time. If I pay off			enalty. If I pay off early, I will	
me. The frequency with which interest that is not paid shall be adde		r	ot be entitled to a refund of p	art of th	ie insurance premium.		
this Note shall be as follows: No capitalization		F	REPAYMENT				
(a) III-school period.			1. Repayment shall be made	in mont	thly installments over a r	epayment period which starts	
(b) Deferment period (prior to the grace period): No capitalization		t	ne first day of the tenth month	after th	he month in which		
Once at end of grace per	iod		(A) I cease to be a full-time s(B)(1) I cease to be a participa			residency program of not more	
(d) Repayment period: Not more frequently than	annually		than four years in dura	ation, 1 o	or		
(d) Repayment period: Not more negative than	armuany		(2) I complete the fourth ye than four years in dura			or residency program of more	
			(C) I cease to be a participan	nt in a fe	ellowship training progra	am not in excess of two years	
Interest shall accrue and be payable at a yearly rate of interest a variable rate calculated by the Secretary of the Department						excess of two years which: (1) the health profession for which	
for each calendar quarter and computed by determining the average	Mine bond equivalent		I prepared at a HEAL sch	nool, and	d (2) in which I may eng	gage during a two-year period	
for each calendar quarter and computed by determining the average rates for the ninety-one day U.S. Treasury Bills, subtlined during the three percent, rounding this figure up to make the state of Countries to the state of Cou	preceding quarter, plus					articipation in an internship or (2) of this paragraph or before	
Interest applied to this Note shall be a tollowed			I complete my participation		and the second s		
(a) In-school period: Average 91 day T-bill 1.85	%, rounded up	2			27DOOTS tillion	Boja	
)	1	Except that, if I received a HE	EALJoan	n before October 22, 19	85, and I become an intern or	
	%, rounded up	a	resident in an accredited prog	gram bel	fore the first day of the te	enth month after I cease to be	
(c) Grace period: Average 91 day Thill 1.85	% rounded up		full-time student at a HEAL so enth month after I cease to be			1 begins on the first day of the	
200 30	U. A. C.		Selle O'Dicarilia Oliver	SILCE	1 Dice	13	
Sign		TAILIED O	PARTILIPED OF THE	DOCK	CALLY TO THE PARTY OF THE PARTY	a ^{re}	
THE TERMS OF THIS NOTE ARE CONTAINED ON BOTH SIDES OF THIS DOCUMENT. I acknowledge that I have received treat and understand the provisions of this Note, including those set forth on the reverse side and any subsequent pages of this document.							
acknowledge that I have received that and understand		445	C. C	1			
		GENERAL	TO THE PARTY OF TH	3000	gr =	Federal Health Education As	
The terms of this Note shall be construed according to the Law (4 sistance Loan (HEAL) Program, copies of which are on file with the							
	an and other researched of	ducation exp	enses, including fees, books, s	supplies	and equipment, and lab	oratory expenses, reasonable	
I agree that all proceeds from this loan will be used solely for this living expenses, reasonable transportation costs (only to the extent this loan shall be made payable jointly to me and the eligible institu	thou are directly related to	o my pourati	on) and the HEAL Insurance i	oremiun	n. I lutther agree that the	e check(s) in the bioceans of	
By my signature below I CERTIFY that I have read and understa	and my rights and reponsi	ibilities regar	ding the HEAL loan under this	a Fionili	soury NO.		

HRSA-500-1 (Rev. .0/94, J5 P-NOTE 4/95

PAGE 1

COPY 1 - LENDER

- 2. The repayment period shall not be less than ten yet more than twenty-five years. ny period described under DEFERMENT and any period on ORBEARANCE shall not be in-
- 2. The repayment period shall not be less than ten yet more than twenty-live years. Any period described under DEFERMENT and any period or ORBEARANCE shall not be included in determining the ten or twenty-five year periods. If I receive my first HEAL loan on or after October 22, 1985, the repayment period shall not extend to a date that is more than thirty-three years from the date on which I signed this Promissory Note. If I received a HEAL loan prior to October 22, 1985, however, any period described under DEFERMENT shall not be included in determining the thirty-three year period.

 3. At least thirty but not more than sixty days before the commencement of my repayment period, I must contact the holder of my loan to establish the precise terms of repayment My repayment schedule will require monthly payments. However, I may select a monthly repayment schedule with substantially equal installments, a monthly repayment schedule with graduated installments that increase in amount over the repayment period, or a monthly repayment schedule with payments that are based on my debt-to-income ratio during the first 5 years of repayment, if I contact the holder of my loan within the period described above. If I do not contact the holder and do not repond to contacts from the holder, the holder may establish a monthly repayment schedule with substantially equal installment payments, subject to the terms of this Note.
- The terms and conditions of repayment shall be set forth in a separate Repayment Schedule which the lender shall establish and shall provide me prior to the beginning of the repay-
- 5. Unless I agree otherwise, I shall make a minimum annual repayment of an amount equal
- 5. Unless I agree otherwise, I shall make a minimum annual repayment of an amount equal to the annual interest on the unpaid principal balance. Except as provided above, if I have other outstanding HEAL loans, the sum of all payments to all holders on my HEAL loans shall not be less than an amount equal to the consolidated interest on the unpaid principal balances.

 6. I understand that this loan must be repaid in accordance with my Repayment Schedule If my account becomes overdue by more than sixty days, the lender must notify an appropriate consumer credit reporting agency of this, which may significantly and adversely affect my credit rating. The lender must also use collection agents and utilize other collection activities (which may include litigation) if my account becomes overdue. may include litigation) if my account becomes overduc. tag

CREDIT REPORTING AGENCY

My lender must disclose my loan, and any other onal consumer credit reporting agencies.

ATE CHARGE

If a scheduled payment is late, I will be charged five cents for each dollar of the instally payment due.

LATE CHARGE

payment due.

- 1. Monthly installments of principal and interest need not be paid, but interest shall accrue:

 (A) When I am carrying a full-time course of study at a HEAL school or at an institution of higher education eligible to participate in the Stafford Loan Program.

 (B) When I am participating in a fellowship training program or full-time educational activity for not in excess of two years as described in paragraph 1 under REPAYMENT above.

 (C) Not in excess of three years for each of the following when I am:

 (1) a member of the Armed Forces of the United States;

 (2) in service as a volunteer under the Peace Corps Act;

 (3) in service as a fu'l-time volunteer under Title I of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973; and

- (2) in service as a volunteer under Title I of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973; and (4) a member of the National Health Service Corps;
 (D) Not in excess of dur years when I am a participant in an accredited internship or residency program. Except that if I received my first HEAL loan on or after October 22, 1985, this limitation of four years also includes any period of deferral of the onset of the repayment period for participation in an internship or residency program.
 (E) Not his excess of une year, if I received the loan while enrolled in a school of chiropractic and I graduated from a school of chiropractic; and (7) Iso, in excess of three years, when I have completed an accredited internship or residency training program in osteopathic general practice, family medicine, general internal medicine, preventive inscicine, or general pediatrics, and am practicing primary care.
 2. To receive a deferment, including a deferral of the onset of the repayment period (see ILEPATINENT). I must, prior to the onset of the activity and annually thereafter, submit to the lender evidence of my status in the deferment activity and evidence that verifies deferment eligibility of the activity. This my responsibility to provide the lender with all required information or other information reparding the requested deferment.

DEATH/DISABILITY

If I die or become totally and permanently disabled, my unpaid indebtedness on this Note shall be cancelled in accordance with applicable Federal statute and regulations.

FORBEARANCE

I have the right to be granted forbearance whenever I am temporarily unable to make sche I have the right to be granted forbearance whenever I am temporarily unable to make scheduled payments on my HEAL loan and I continue to repay the loan in an amount commensurate with my ability to repay the loan unless the Secretary determines that my default is inevitable and the forbearance will be ineffective in preventing default. A lender must exercise forbearance in accordance with terms that are consistent with the thirty-three year limitation on the length of repayment if the lender and the borrower agree in writing to the new terms. Each forbearance period may not exceed six months and the total period of forbearance (with or without interruption) granted to me must not exceed two years unless an extension is granted by the Secretary.

DEFAULT

If I do not make payments when due, my loan may be declared in default. If I default, the Federal Government will take over my loan and I will then owe the Government. The Federal Government will actively pursue me for repayment of the deht, including the use of collection agents and reporting my default to consumer credit reporting agencies or to the Internal Revenue Service for purpose of locating me or for income tax refund offset, and referral to the Department of Luctice for litingting. I may be the subject of court action to force me to may. The Service ment of Justice for litigation. I may be the subject of court action to force me to pay. The Secre tary shall also cause to be reduced Federal reimbursements or payments for health services under any Federal law to borrowers who are practicing their professions and have defaulted on their loans, and may make other administrative offsets, including salary offsets for Federal employees. The Government may also report any written off debt to the Internal Revenue Service as taxable income, and may undertake any other debt collection procedures in accordance

- with the Claims Collection Regulations (45 CFR Part 30).

 1. In the event of my default on this loan, the entire unpaid loan including interest due and accrued shall, at the option of the holder of this Note, become immediately due and payable.

 2. If I fail to make a scheduled payment, or fail to comply with any other term of this Note, the lender may: (a) refer my loan to a collection agent for further collection efforts; (b) initiate legal proceedings against me; (c) refer my loan to the Secretary for collection assistance; and (d) obtain my address from the Internal Revenue Service, through the Secretary, if the lend has no current address for me.
- 3. If I fail to make a scheduled payment, or fail to comply with any other term of this Note, any HEAL school or post-graduate training program I have attended may assist in the collection of my loan, including providing information concerning me to the Secretary and to past
- and present lenders and holders of my HEAL loans.

 4. No Federal or State statute, regulation, or administrative limitation shall terminate the period within which suit may be filed, a judgment may be enforced or an offset, garnishment, or other action m. ** be initiated or taken by the Secretary, the Attorney General, or other administrative head of another Federal agency, for the repayment of the amount due on this Note.

BANKRUPTCY

Under current law, I may not have my loan discharged in bankruptcy during the first 7 years of the repayment period, under any chapter of the Bankruptcy Act, including Chapter 13. I may have a HEAL loan discharged in bankruptcy after the first 7 years of the repayment period, excluding any periods of forbearance and deferment, only upon a finding by the Bankruptcy Court that the non-discharge of such debt would be unconscionable and upon the condition that the Secretary shall not have waived his or her rights to reduce any Federal reimbursements or Federal payments for health services under any Federal law in amounts up to the balance of the loan. Any changes in the HEAL statute regarding the discharge of a HEAL loan in bankruptcy will apply to this loan.

BORROWER'S RIGHTS

- The lender (holder) cannot change the terms of my HEAL loan without my consent.
 The lender must provide me with a copy of the completed promissory note when the loan is made. The lender (holder) must return the note to me when the loan is paid in full.
 The loan check must be made payable jointly to me and the school except that if loan proceeds are disbursed by an electronic transfer mechanism approved by the Secretary, then I must sign a borrower authorization statement. The check or draft must require my endorsement.
 The lender (holder) will provide me with a repayment schedule before the repayment period begins.

- I must sign a borrower authorization statement. The check or draft must require my endorsement.

 4. The lender (holder) will provide me with a repayment schedule before the repayment period begins.

 5. If the loan is sold from one lender to another lender, or if the loan is serviced by a party other than the lender, the holder must notify me within 30 days of the transaction and I must be soil a notification which spells out my obligations to the new holder.

 6. I have a right to a 9-month "grace period" before repayment begins after I have completed school attendance, internship and residency in an accredited program, or a fellowship training program or full-time educational activity approved by the Secretary for this purpose.

 7. I have a right to deferment of principal and interest repayments if certain conditions exist. Under deferment I am not required to make payments on the loan principal or interest for a period of time. However, interest continues to accrue during any deferment period. To receive a deferment, including a deferral of the onset of the repayment period (See Section 60.11(a) of the HEAL regulations.) I must, prior to the onset of the activity and annually thereafter, submit to the holder of the note evidence of my status in the deferment activity and evidence that verifies deferment eligibility of the activity. It is my responsibility to provide the holder with all required information regarding the requested deferment.

 8. I have a right to prepay the whole or any portion of the loan at any time without a penalty.

 9. If I contact the holder of my loan at least 30 but not more than 60 days before the commencement of my repayment period to establish the precise terms of repayment, I may select a monthly repayment schedule with substantially equal installments, a monthly repayment schedule with substantially equal installments, a monthly repayment schedule with payments that are based on my debt-to-income ratio during the first 5 years of repayment.

 10. My loan obligation will be cancelled

- Secretary.

 12. The lender (holder) must notify me in writing of the balance owed for principal, interest, insurance premiums, and any other charges or fees owed to the lender (holder), at least every 6 months from the time my loan was disbursed to me.

 13. The lender and I, by mutual agreement, may consolidate all of my HEAL notes into a single instrument under the terms applicable to an insured loan made at the same time as the consolidation. The lender or loan holder should provide full information to me concerning the advantages and disadvantages of loan consolidation.

 14. If I enter and remain in the primary care field of osteopathic general practice, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, family medicine, or general dentistry, I shall receive preference for participation in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment (NHSCLR) program under section 338B of the Public Health Service Act. However, I understand that the NHSCLR program is not an entitlement, but is contingent upon the availability of funding.

BORROWER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. I understand that there is no interest subsidy on a HEAL loan and that I must pay all interest on the loan. If I do not make payments on time or if I default, the total amount to be repaid will be increased by late charges and may be increased by additional interest costs, attorney's fees, court costs and other collection costs.

 2. I agree to pay an insurance premium if charged by the lender, not to exceed my share of the amount required by the Secretary to provide insurance coverage on a HEAL loan. I understand that I will not be entitled to any refund of this premium.

 3. I must immediately notify the lender (holder) in writing if any of the following occurs to me before the loan is repaid in full: a. change of address, b. name change (e.g., maiden name to married name), c. failure to ernoll in a HEAL school for the period for which the loan is intended, d. transfer to another school, e. withdrawal from school or attendance on a less than full-time basis, f. graduation, g. fallure to begin any activity eligible for deferment status, or h. cessation of participation in an activity eligible for deferment status.

 4. I must notify the lender (holder) of any occurrence which may affect my eligibility to receive or to continue to receive a deferment, including a deferral of the onset of the activity and annually thereafter, submit to the holder of the note evidence of my status in the deferment activity and evidence that verifies deforment eligibility. If the calcivity and evidence that verifies deforment eligibility after activity and evidence that verifies deforment eligibility. If the activity is the present activity and evidence that verifies deforment eligibility. The activity all requirement activity and evidence that verifies deforment eligibility. The lender (holder) must notify an appropriate consumer credit reporting agree of the man and activities (which may including the properting agree of the propertin



Program Support Center

Debt Collection Center

<u>CERTIFICATE OF INDEBTEDNESS</u> Health Education Assistance Loan

Brian C. Bernhart 4401 Mackenzie Ct. SW Concord, NC 28027 HHS Claim Number: 50160221 SSN: XXX-XX-2453

Total debt due the United States as of July 15, 2018: \$31,692.98 (principal \$31,284.91, interest \$408.07).

I certify that the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) records show that the named individual is indebted to the United States in the amount stated above. Interest is computed at a variable rate and adjusted quarterly. Interest is currently accruing at the rate of 3.445% per annum; and \$2.95 per day. Due to the compounding of interest, the current principal amount is greater than the original amount borrowed.

The claim arose in connection with Health Education Assistance Loan(s) made by a private lender and assigned to the United States.

Dr. Bernhart applied for and was granted the following Health Education Assistance Loans (HEAL), Section 701-720 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292).

Date of	Amount of	Amount
Promissory Note	Promissory Note	Disbursed
05/19/1996	\$18,500.00	\$18,500,00

Dr. Bernhart signed a promissory note(s) agreeing to repay the loan(s) beginning the first day of the tenth month after ceasing to be a full-time student or completing a residency program.

Due to default, an insurance claim was filed with the United States. The amount due was \$26,450.00. The lender's claim was paid by the United States on February 23, 2005, and an assignment of the note(s) was received.

HHS notified Dr. Bernhart by letter dated February 25, 2005, that the previous holder of the HEAL promissory note(s) placed him in default and assigned the note(s) to the U.S. Government.

In a letter dated April 29, 2005, he was advised that his account had been referred to a private collection agency. He was notified that the account would be referred to DOJ for enforced collection unless HHS received payment in full or a RA was concluded.



Page 1 of 2

By letters dated June 24, 2005, June 11, 2009 and February 8, 2013, he was advised that his account was delinquent. He was notified of HHS' intent to refer his debt to other Federal agencies for the purpose of administrative offset, which may include Federal tax refund offset, salary offset, wage garnishment, and other Federal or State Agencies payments. He was advised that paying the debt in full or entering into an RA would terminate administrative offset.

On February 08, 2006; November 22, 2010; July 25, 2011; and February 07, 2013, Dr. Bernhart was notified that he had sixty days in which to resolve the delinquent debt or his case would be referred to the DOJ for enforced collection. He did not comply.

Additional notifications and demand letters regarding the indebtedness were sent on the following dates: February 02, 2006; June 23, 2009; July 06, 2009; July 07, 2009; May 23, 2014; May 27, 2014; and November 03, 2015.

In a letter dated May 12, 2018, Dr. Bernhart was sent instructions for entering into a Repayment Agreement (RA). He was notified that unless payment in full or a fully document RA was received within 30 days, the case would be referred to DOJ for enforced collection. He did not comply.

Total Payments made to the United States: \$6,455.69.

The following provides a breakdown of payments made on the debt:

Voluntary Payments

03/18/05 to 11/08/11

\$6,029.69

Treasury Offset Payment

11/10/15

\$426.00

Repeated attempts by HHS have been unsuccessful in establishing an acceptable repayment agreement. The debt is now being referred to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for enforced collection.

CERTIFICATION: Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1746, I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Data

Melodie R. Sanders

Chief, Debt Referral Section

Program Support Center

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services